ISSN 084-6209

The Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club of Western Australia

RADIO-GRAM

Issue 120

March 2012

News from the Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club, Perth. WA.
This issue comprises the September 2011 to February 2012 Meetings!

At the September Meeting, Richard Rennie set up a hands-on project for all participants to build their own crystal set radio from supplied components.

Tony Smith presented some films including a film on the Nicholsons Broadcasting Service at the October Meeting .

Members enjoyed our Christmas party which was held in November on the Club room verandah.

Some of the items up for bidding at a monster Auction held at the January 2012 meeting.

VINTAGE WIRELESS AND GRAMAPHONE CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.

EXECUTIVE 2009-2010

President: Rob Nunn

51 St Helier Drive, Sorrento, WA 6020

Phone: 0418 922 629 (M) ; 08 94486143 (H)

Email : ranunn07@bigpond.com

Vice President: Steve Austin

Secretary: Rodney House,

Email : bevnrod@westnet.com.au

Vince Taylor (Minute Secretary)

Treasurer: Barry Kinsella

Email : barkinsella@optusnet.com.au

Website: Reg Gauci : http://vwgc.org.au

Email: info@vwgc.org.au

Committee: Rob Nunn, Barry Kinsella, Andrew Wakeman, Vince Taylor, Tony Smith, Steve Austin, Reg Gauci and Len Lewis.

Appointments: Librarian: TBA

Editor: Rob Nunn; Publicity/Website: Reg Gauci

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (with the exception of December) at 8pm in the Veteran Car Club rooms at 6 Hickey Street, Ardross. Visitors are always welcome!

Although the main interests of members are wireless receivers and gramophones (or phonographs) , many members are also interested in amplifiers, telephones, musical boxes, tape recorders, television receivers and other associated equipment and memorabilia.

Radio-Gram is currently published twice per year, in about February and August.

Send articles and advertisements to the editor:

Rob Nunn : 51 St Helier Drive, Sorrento, WA, 6020

Email: ranunn07@bigpond.com

Phone : 94486143 or 0418 922 629

Please make sure your 'copy' is submitted by the meeting night prior to the issue month.

Advertisements are placed FREE of charge, but should be of a non-exploitive nature.

Subscriptions: $25 (payable in June)
(Concession rate: $20)

Presidents' Report

This issue of "Radiogram" covers the period from September 2011 to February 2012. I think my apologies for the late publication of this issue are required. The reasons are mainly due to some back problems I have been having resulting in only limited time that can be spent on the computer.

Our September meeting was a great success thanks to Richard Rennie and the "toilet roll radio" construction project he presented to all members present. It was a nice challenge and great fun to all, and no doubt took many members back to their earlier days when they made their own crystal set radios from whatever components they could find.

Tony Smith stepped in for our October meeting, to cover for Phil Salinger who was sick. Tony showed some films on the Nicholsons Broadcasting Service which included early scenes of Perth, Bunbury and Collie and another film on late night radio. Thanks Tony.

Unfortunately I missed the November Christmas party as I was in Sydney in November. As reported by Rodney in his Report on the next page, the evening went very well. Thanks are due to Rodney and those mentioned in his Report.

Our first meeting for 2012 on 24 January was a big auction, and I mean big! We had 9 sellers and 22 buyers for 138 lots! Which sounds great but it's a lot of work for the Auctioneer and his support people, and makes for a very late night for us oldies. In future we would like members to bring along items for auction to any of our monthly meetings, and not just the main auctions in January and June.

Steve Austin treated us to a marvelous expose on Pathe at our 28 February meeting. Steve presented a very interesting talk and provided working examples of some vintage restored Pathe phonographs. Thanks Steve for your hard work!

Thanks again to Reg Gauci for his continuing excellent work on our Website. Have a look for yourselves members! http://vwgc.org.au

Come on Members, and send us some photos and brief descriptions of interesting items from your collections!

Rob Nunn

The Secretarys' Report

2011 finished on a high note with the social evening in November enjoyed by a good turnout of members. The weather was perfect and I think that the catering lived up to expectations. Once again we confirmed our reputation as serious carnivores, with meat estimated for 40 people consumed, with little left, by not much more than half that number. I would like to thank the other members of the committee who assisted with the supplies on the night. Andrew brought the drinks, ice and esky, Barry the salads, Stephen the buns and butter, Tony the tea, coffee, milk, and in a new innovation this year Reg supplied the cheesecakes, a new innovation for this event.

After the relaxation of the social evening 2012 started off with a monster auction, which created serious work for a number of members. By my records which may be a bit rubbery, 9 sellers including the Club, provided 138 lots, which were snapped up by 22 different buyers. The total amount taken was $1144 dollars, of which $572 was paid to vendors and $573 paid into the Club's coffers. The financial wizards among you will notice immediately that these figures don't add up. My position is that this comes about by the rounding up of the 10% commission charged by the Club for member's sales, however I would be delighted to provide my records to any member who would like to spend a few minutes finding the recalcitrant dollar.

We should thank Stephen firstly for a very good effort in getting through such a large number of lots, assisted of course by Shane, and Barry and Rob, who keep manual records, calculate amounts to be charged and paid out, and handle the money. It is quite a busy time for them during the auction, and more so at the end when everyone wants to settle up and get away. For the first time we trialled two computer programs which should when perfected, make this much faster and maybe more accurate.

My program half worked, but had some problems with page breaks, but it did tally with the manual calculations fairly well. It is quite a simple program, which is the limit of my capability, and will print out a seller's sheet, and how much is owed by each buyer, but will print out a separate buyer's invoice. It appears that it may be useful, but not ideal. We didn't do any printing on the night because I remembered just about everything except the paper. Hopefully better next time. Reg's program is much more advanced than mine, and will print out an invoice for each buyer and/or seller with full calculations of credits and debits. It uses a database of members which was provided by Barry and was up to date prior to the meeting.

This auction attracted several new members, who joined on the night. While this was a very good thing, it confused the database on which Reg was depending. I'm sure that this can be overcome in the future and Reg's program will become a very useful tool for us, and I thank him most sincerely for the efforts he has made already. Stephen's motion that some of the donated items be auctioned at meetings as they become available was accepted by the members and should help in keeping the number of lots in the two major auctions down to a more manageable level.

I would also like to thank Tony Smith who seems to gather many of the auction items, assesses and repairs a number of them, sells some on behalf of the Club, stores them, and transports them to the auction. In addition he is very active in pursuing prospective new members.

I'm sure that you will be aware that this year is the centenary of Wireless Hill, and that quite a number of events are being planned by the City of Melville. Richard has been looking after the Club's interest in connection with this and the Club has offered to host three events later in the year :-

An old valve radio information day, when members of the public will be invited to bring radios for identification, dating and information on conservation and restoration. It is not proposed to give valuations.
An exhibition and demonstration of radios, from the 1920s to the 1970s. See articles ahead fro dates.

The story of the transition of 6WF of Westralian Farmers Ltd to the Australian Broadcasting Commission. This will be presented by Richard and will be based on a scrap book compiled by Walter Coxon. (1st of July at 10:30 and 2:00)

There may be a problem with the venue for them. Our preferred option is for the cottage at Wireless Hill which would provide the necessary shelter. At present the cottage is acting as a storage area for many of the items from the museum. It is hoped that the Council can find an alternative storage area in the near future and the cottage can be put to uses more appropriate to the centenary celebrations.

In addition to the Club events Richard will be launching his book *The Encyclopaedia of Western Australian Wirelesses and Gramophones* on the 23rd of Sept at 10:30. This is a book which has been a number of years in the making and which will be of great interest to members.

The old computer will probably be disposed of and members are invited to make an offer if interested. It is in reasonably good condition, and although lacking in some areas which more modern machines offer, is still quite a useful machine. It would be good for someone who wanted to start out and get connected to the internet so as to be able to keep up with the excellent Club website which Reg maintains, not to mention all of the goodies to be found on ebay, and the convenience of email !! It is the computer which I used at the last auction, and it performed perfectly – only the operator and his program failed the test.

Finally I will be missing in action for both the February and March meeting, having a well deserved holiday. No doubt some willing member will step in. "There's not much to do" are the words spoken by an unidentified member when I first took over the Secretary's job – and they still ring in my ears!!

…Rod

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President
Rob Nunn

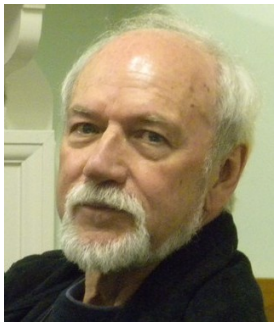
Vice-President
Steve Austin.

Secretary
- Rodney House

Treasurer
Barry Kinsella

Minutes Secretary
Vince Taylor

Committee
Tony Smith



Committee
John Newman

Webmaster and Committee
Reg Gauci

Committee
Andew Wakeman

Recent Events

September 27, 2011 : Richard Rennie will guide members through the making of a crystal set.

October 25, 2011 : Tony Smith filled in for Phil Salinger, showing some early films including one on the Nicholsons Broadcasting Service.

November 22, 2011 : Social evening Christmas Party. Commencing 6.30pm.

January 24, 2012 : Large Auction. All Members invited to bid on many items.

February 28, 2012 : Pathe Night. Steve Austin introduced us to the peculiar wonders of these gramophones and phonographs. Members are encouraged to bring along any Pathe items.

Richard Rennie

Tony Smith

Steve Austin.

Coming Events

March 27, 2012 : Ray Nicholas will talk on his experiences servicing radios in the RAAF at Pearce, Darwin and Borneo during WW2.

April 24, 2012 : Rodney House will talk and demonstrate miniature Ultra Portable Radios, some disguised as cameras

May 22, 2012 : Valve Portable Radios. Rob will co-ordinate this presentation, and asks members to bring along portables of interest.

June 26, 2012 : AGM and Auction.

Some of Doug Whitfields collection on sale.

See page 22 and 23 for further details and prices

This item was sent in by John Newman in regard to a house auction in Shenton Park, held in early November.

Item: Rack of 1990s audio equipment.

Consisting of: Luxman tuner ,Denon dual Cassette, Thorens 4-speed record player, SAT CD player, Accuphase stereo Amp, Speakers on stands

Auctioneer estimate: $50 the lot
Bidding started at $100
Bidding ended at $3100 (plus $511 buyer's premium)

(The next item was a 28" analogue TV and DVD player. Sold for $30!)

John Newman

February meeting on Pathe by Steve Austin—
Steve, Richard, Brian, Daryl and Tony

FOR SALE

Compac Pressario C700 laptop computer, Celeron 550 processor, 2 GHZ, 1GB RAM, running Windows XP Service Pack 3. Also licenced for Vista.

This computer belongs to our Club and is no longer required due to a recent upgrade to a new machine.

Please submit offers to Secretary Rod House at email bevnrod@westnet.com.au or phone 93646912

Our Club set up a stand at the Have a Go Day function on 9 November, 2011

a Seniors Recreation Council event
Have a Go Day
WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2011
Bendigo Bank Seniors Week event
Burswood Park
8.30 am to 3.00 pm Great Eastern Highway.
Official Opening 9.30am
Free Fun Activities
& Information Day for Over45's
Activities:- Walking, Canoeing, Climbing Wall, Archery, Dancing, Tai Chi, Exercise to Music, Bridge static displays and much more.
For more information call Seniors Recreation Council
Phone: 08 9492 9772
Free Tea, Coffee & Water available All Day
Food & Drink vendors in attendance
Smoke Free Event
Radio stations 6PR 882 & Curtin fm 100.1 Broadcasting on site all day—meet the personalities
BURSWOOD
BE ACTIVE
Scarboro Toyota
"Find thirty minutes of physical activity everyday for good health"

Reg and Barry at our Club display
at the Burswood Have a Go Day

Reg and Rodney demonstrate gramophones etc

Rodney and Barry talk to interested members
of the public at our display

Rodney, Barry and Tony at our Club display

Suitable tents and facilites were provided for
participants in the Have a Go Day

Minutes of Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Collectors Club meeting held at clubrooms Tuesday 27 September 2011. 15 members present.

8.00pm. Meeting commenced.
The meeting was opened by President Rob Nunn and welcome was extended to visitors. Rob asked for members to send in digital photos of their gramophones and radios to include on the website and club magazine. Also to bring along interesting bits of their collections for Items of Interest. On 20 September the VWGC Committee met to discuss the program ahead up to June 2012. A program was put together and it promises to be an interesting year.

Rob also made a special vote of thanks to Reg Gauci for his work on our website. A reminder was made for the upcoming Have-A-Go day on 9 November 2011. And also for the Christmas party on 22 November 2011, to be held at our clubrooms.

The September 2011 issue of "Radiogram" is out today and prints are available here tonight. Electronic versions have already been sent to email members. Rob also reminded members to get their lists of items to Tony Smith for his list for the big January 2012 auction.

Secretary's Report.
The Secretary reported incoming mail and correspondence. Rodney also reported on the upcoming program of presentations at our monthly meetings. It has been decided there will be no reserve prices for donations at auctions. Our club is self-assess, non profit making. The Wireless Hill Centenary in 2012 was discussed. Removal of some items from existing facilities will be require. Other sites such as the old ABC sudio in Adelaide Tce are being considered. Our laptop pc was discussed, including the possibility to update it. His report was moved accepted by Lawrie and seconded by Tony Smith.

Treasurer's Report.
Tabled as a separate document. The Club has finished ahead over the financial year, and current funds are approximately $7500. The report was passed as correct by Steven Austin and seconded by James Wemm. Passed unanimously.

General Business.
Lawrie reported on his visit to a Wireless Hill meeting.
Tony Smith- Still has 100 Lp records to dispose of, also 100 CDs (mostly classical). Feel free to check them out and remember that they are a donation to the club.

Items of Interest
Norbert Tourney- Has a new phone number…0448881187. Norbert repairs most electronic equipment.

Meeting closed 8.45pm. Members were treated to a crystal set construction project, organised, presented and supervised by Richard Rennie. Richard supplied a components package to all participants and awarded prizes to fastest and best results.

Secretary Rodney and Treasurer Barry hard at work building their toilet roll radios!

Reg shows off his Certificate (First Completed) and crystal set

Minutes of Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Collectors Club meeting held at clubrooms Tuesday October 25th 2011.

19 members present, 4 visitors.

8.00pm. Meeting commenced.
The meeting was opened by President Rob Nunn. Apologies; Steven Austin and Richard Rennie. Welcome visitors; Brian and Sylvia Lyons, Anders and Ian Stimpson. Thanks were given to Richard Rennie for the toilet roll radio project last meeting. Richard is also representing us in discussions of the future of the Wireless Hill site. Reminders of future events are 1) The Christmas get together, 6pm November 22nd. All club members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to bring along items of interest. 2) 'Seniors Have A Go Day' at Burswood, November 9th. Members are welcome to help with the club display at this event. 3) The next club auction, January 24th. We ask that you submit lots to Tony Smith early to avoid disappointment. Members are also welcome to submit digital photos of items of interest for inclusion in the club magazine/ newsletter.

Secretary's Report.
An email was sent regarding news and the change in program for tonite (a hard copy is on the desk). A letter was received from Ken McKay who has been lobbying for the establishment of a Western Australian Radio and Television museum at the old ABC Studio site. A reply has been made that we are interested in the concept but would require more information before committing support to the venture. The club has accepted an invitation to display at the Guildford Heritage Festival (March 11th 2012). We have declined the Moondyne Festival (6th May) due to the unsuitability of the proffered venue. The Secretary's report was moved as correct by Tony Smith and seconded by Reg Gauci. Passed.

Treasurer's Report.
The Treasurer's report was tabled as a separate document. Moved as correct by Reg Gauci and seconded by Laurie Bugeja.

General Business.
Tony Smith- Is looking for a DAT tape machine. Also due to the volume of donated items at present, members are advised to arrange with Tony for viewing.
Reg Gauci- The club laptop is not adequate for our audiovisual requirements (slow processor and small memory). Reg proposes that $1000 be spent to purchase a new computer and printer more adequate to our needs. This was seconded by Barry Kinsella and passed unanimously.

Items of Interest
Tom Newsome- VARLI tuning gear c.1920s.
Brian Lyons- 1) Mini Stephanie record player/ transistor radio. 2) Cameraphone c.1923, wooden case.

Meeting closed 8.35pm. A film presentation was made by Tony Smith and Ian Stimpson on a film from Nicholsons Ltd that Ian rescued from a rubbish bin.

Brian Lyons shows off some of his minature record payer and camera-phone collections.
See page 20 for more photos.

Minutes of Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Collectors Club meeting held at clubrooms Tuesday January 24th 2012. 20 members present, 5 visitors.

8.00pm. Meeting commenced.

The meeting was opened by President Rob Nunn. Thanks were extended to the executive for holding the fort during Robs' absence and for all the work done by club members over the last year. There were no minutes of previous meetings available.

Secretary's Report.

There was an incoming magazine from Alex Coppin. Richard Rennie has submitted 3 ideas for the 2012 centenary celebrations of Wireless Hill. Positive feedback has been received on the idea of a wireless information day for Sunday September 16th. Other ideas are for a talk on historic radios on September 30th and the transition of 6WF to ABC on July 1st. The Secretary's report was moved as correct by Len Lewis and seconded by Richard Rennie. Passed.

Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer's report was tabled as a separate document. It was moved as correct by Richard Rennie and seconded by Steven Austen. Passed.

General Business.

Len Lewis- proposed that club T shirts may be a good idea. It was decided to investigate the idea at the next committee meeting.
Steven Austin- Wished to move a proposal that… Due to the large amount of items presented at club auctions and the large amount of donated goods in store, we hold mini auctions of donated goods on the nights of our regular meetings after the guest speaker. This was seconded by Rod Edwards and passed.

Items of Interest

There were no items of interest.

Meeting closed 8.20pm. An auction was held with more than 130 lots listed.

Donation Kreisler valve portable bakelite radio

Donation Hotpoint valve portable radio with ext speaker.

Some of the 135 lots up for auction.

Hewlett-Packard distortion analyser in very nice condition

Minutes of Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Collectors Club meeting held at clubrooms Tuesday February 28th 2012. 23 members present, 2 visitors.

8.00pm. Meeting commenced.
The meeting was opened by President Rob Nunn. Apologies were given for Secretary Rodney House and a welcome was extended to visitor Daryl Binning from the Motion Picture and TV history group. The January auction was a great success. 9 sellers and 139 lots was a few too many so Tony Smiths motion of donated items auctioned at regular meetings was very welcome and passed accordingly. The club recently bought a new laptop computer which is more suitable to our A/V needs. The old laptop is being disposed of, so if anyone is interested see a member of the executive. Members are asked to send in digital photos for the club magazine and a new edition is expected in early March. The club is still receiving enquiries from the public regarding repairs and valuations. A motion was asked to pass the previous meetings minutes. This was put forward by Len Lewis and seconded by Paul Hansen. Passed.

Secretary's Report.
There was no Secretary's report available.

Treasurer's Report.
The treasurer's report was tabled as a separate document. The club still has about $1200 in the bank. Financial membership stands at about 50 members. The Treasurers report was moved as correct by Richard Rennie and seconded by Len Lewis. Passed.

General Business.
Tony Smith- Our regular plug on Capitol Radio is giving us good publicity and donations. A more recent item that has surfaced is a locally made Mastertone 3 in 1 set (radio, turntable, TV). See Tony if interested.
Richard Rennie- Wireless Hill Centenary Celebrations. New dates for events are; Wireless Information Day… Sunday Oct 7th.
Transition of 6WF to ABC…Sunday July 1st.
Club Display …Sunday September 30th.
Daryl Binnings- A programme of family films will be held at Wireless Hill on Sat 10th March. There are also many 16mm films available from the Motion Picture and TV History group for loan to the public. The name Australian Media Museum has been registered in all states to facilitate the different state groups to get together for displays.

Items of Interest
Merv Thompson- Found some items relating to the early days of the club and its formation…Flyer, Display card and Large Banner.
David Littley- Has found a good substitute for the restoration of the gold centres in 50s and 60s radio knobs. See him for more information.

Meeting closed 8.20pm. Steven Austin gave a presentation on Pathé records and machines.

Steve shows his wonderful collection of phonographs and gramophones at the February meeting.

Fred Franklin has some comments on the article by Tony Smith on electrical hazards published in "Radiogram 119".

In answer to Tony's "biteys"

Over the years of collecting and restoring radios I have come upon this deadly little trick of connecting the frame of a radio's part to the high voltage power supply.

A series of valve driven Japanese *National* radiograms were banned from import to Australia as the speaker frame was connected to the high tension. The basics of it is that the stereo amplifier was transformerless. This included the output transformer. Instead an eight inch speaker with an impedance of 400 ohms was connected directly to the high tension and the anode of the output valve. There was a risk of splash-over sparking from the high voltage on the voice coil of the speaker to the speaker's frame so the frame was energised as well to prevent this.

The radiograms that have come my way for repairs were imported as personal property by public servants who worked in New Guinea and transferred back to Australia. They were unaware of the danger. They transferred to Darwin so that they could continue their tropical lifestyle but live in Australia.

In battery powered portable radios I have noticed that to turn the radio off, an on/off switch interrupts the power supply to the valves' filaments. If there is no power supply to the filaments of the valves, the valves do not conduct the 90 volts high tension provided by other batteries in the radio (in theory at least). This means that the 90 volts high tension is constantly applied to the areas that require it, even if it is not being used. This led to electrolysis in the primary winding of the output transformer and the eventual destruction of the winding. Moisture in the atmosphere (humidity) around the radio helped to progress the electrolysis. Some of these transformer frames were also connected to the high tension supply to limit the problem.

Every battery powered portable radio that came my way had an open circuit primary winding in the output transformer.

For the reason of electrolysis and possibly some post war dodgy materials or parts I should agree with tony.

Another "bitey" occurs in the Mullard 651A mantel radio that is claimed not to need an aerial wire, although there is an aerial terminal. The manufacturer claims that the 240 volt mains is used as an aerial. True! There is a radio frequency capacitor (150*pf*) connected between the aerial terminal and the Neutral (black or blue) wire of the 240 volt mains supply to the radio. Should this capacitor fail there would be unspeakable damage done to the radio's circuitry and the listener as he used it, as the 240 volts mains goes for an uncontrolled romp through the guts of the radio.

I remove the capacitor and connect an aerial in the normal and safe way.

Look before you leap is a good addage for many of these old radios, obtain the circuit and read it first.

Happy collecting and restoring.

FRED

New acquisition - The iSing Gramophone

A very rare gramophone has been added to the collection of club member Richard Rennie. The machine is the iSing. It is a precursor to the iPod and the iPhone. iSing gramophones were made by the Marzipan Talking Machine Company in Kandi, India in the period 1910 to 1915..

The iSing has a case approximately 14 inches by 14 inches. It is finished with imitation wood grain, and is very sweet. Unlike most machines it has the crank handle on the left side rather than the right. To reduce record wear the iSing plays records using needles made from sugar cane. The horn is exponential and supported by layers of toffee. The motor is generously lubricated with honey and graphite.

iSing records are quite rare. “Sugar Time” by the McGuire Sisters, “Sugar Sugar” by the Archies, “Lollypop” by Chordettes, and “Sugar Shack” by Jimmy Gilmer are excellent. “Ah Sweet Mystery of Life” by Jeanette MacDonald is very syrupy. And “Sugar Town” by Nancy Sinatra is a bit saccharin.

The iSing Gramophone

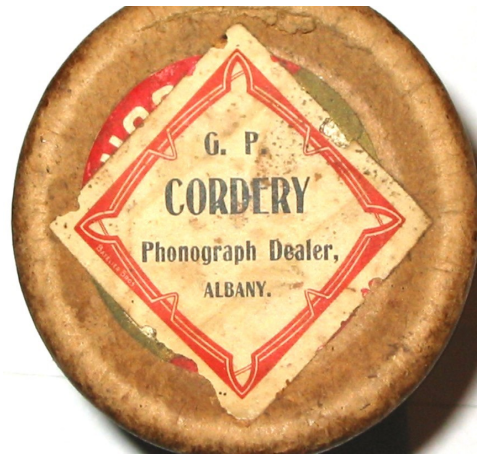
Richard winding the iSing Gramophone in order to demonstrate it to his brother.

Richard cuts the first record on the iSing Gramophone, watched by his brother.

Oldest Known Datable Western Australian Sound Recording Identified!

Richard Rennie

A few years ago I purchased some Edison Phonograph cylinder records from a collection that came from Albany. Some of the record containers had labels for **G.P. Cordery - Phonograph Dealer, Albany**. Others had stickers for **John Watts - Music House, York Street Albany**.



Above: Sticker on the lid of an Edison cylinder record from Albany

Among the records was a **brown** wax cylinder record. These are records that could be cut (recorded) on a domestic Phonograph.

Above: The brown wax record

When the brown wax record was played the introduction said:

"Cornet selection by Ensign (name not recognisable). Albany Records".

This was followed by a selection of patriotic British tunes (Rule Britannia, etc.) played on a cornet. However, on the second playing of this record I let the machine continue on after the last note. At the end of the recording an **extra track** had been added. This stated:

"This cornet selection was played by Ensign (name not recognisable) about four weeks before he was Promoted to Glory."

A long search through archives and newspapers began. On contacting the Salvation Army in Albany last September, they suggested the cornet player could be **Ensign Albert Suridge**.

Above: Ensign Albert with cornet

I then rang the only Suridge in W.A. phone book. He indicated that the cornet player was probably his grandfather. Contact with his brother in South Australia confirmed the cornet player's identity as Ensign Albert Suridge.

Albert Suridge was born in South Australia on 22 September 1871. He became an officer in the Salvation Army on the 14 December 1899 and came to Western Australia in 1902. He married Captain Ethel Wingate on the 2 September 1903 at Kanowna in the Kalgoorlie gold fields. Suridge served in the Salvation Army as a Captain in seven country towns before being appointed to Albany. He was only in Albany for seven months.

Above: Ensign Albert Suridge with Captain Ethel Wingate

His grandchildren indicated Ensign Suridge died aged 35 years in Albany on 17 February 1907 from typhoid. This means the cylinder recording was made in Albany in **mid-to-late January 1907**.

This makes the **104 year old** recording the **oldest known datable Western Australian sound recording**. "A significant part of Western Australian audio history."

The Suridge recording can be heard at the **Museum of Early Western Australian Sound Recordings** (http://lightandsound.net.au/sound.html)

A Bit of Humour!

A guy is 72years old and loves to fish.
He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up.'
He looked around and couldn't see anyone.

He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again,'Pick me up.'

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.
The man said, 'Are you talking to me?'

The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you.' Pick me up, then kiss me; and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen.

I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous, because I will be your bride!'

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully and placed it in his shirt pocket.
The frog said, 'What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said?'

I said, 'Kiss me, and I will be your beautiful bride.'
He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, 'Nah. At my age, I'd rather have a talking frog.'
With age comes wisdom!

TERRITORY TALES

Recently, I joined the aviation museum here in Darwin. There is a lot of WW11 radio, avionics and other equipment waiting for the gentle touch of my soldering iron. This will bring many stories for our magazine as I find interesting equipment and interesting repairs.

-oOo-

Fred Franklin

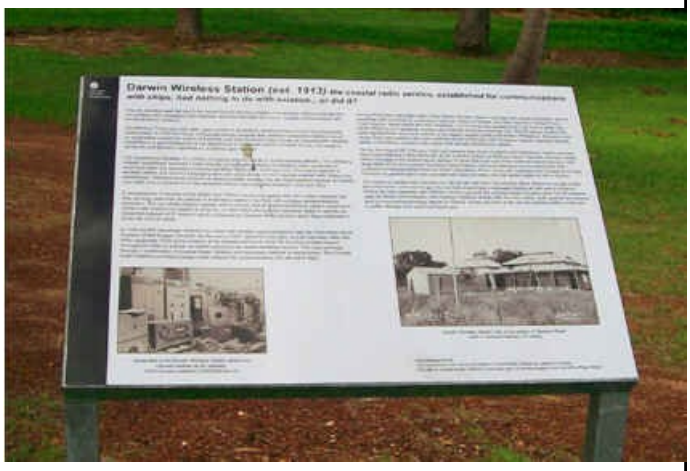
One of the aldermen from the Darwin City Council told me that a lady down south had written to him asking that a plaque be erected on the spot where her father had served during WW11 in a radio station. Not much more was known except that the station was in McMinn Street.

I was able to show him photos from *www.ntl.gov.au*/ "Picture NT". and walk around the sites. He brought a WW11 aerial photo of the area so that it could all be done correctly, historically.

During WW11 there were three radio stations along this road.

One was in the grounds of the (later) Darwin Primary School that must have been a good size with three studios and a transmitter hall. This area is now known as frogs hollow, a spacious park.

Another was on the western part of the road and was about the size of a small house. The Frontier Hotel stands on this site now. Until recent major sewer and road works the remains of two concrete posts twenty metres apart could be seen cut off at ground level. I think that this station may have been operated by Voluntary Interceptors who listened for enemy transmissions and passed them on to authorities



The last was on the corner of Gardens Hill Road (an extension of McMinn Street going down into the gardens) and Gardens Hill Crescent. This one was the size of a good sized house.

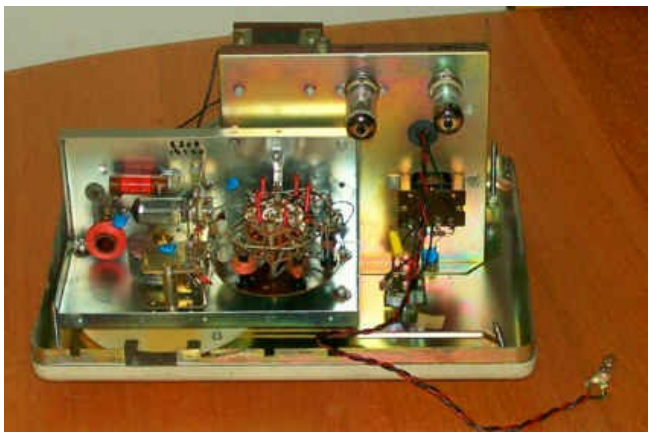
The council has installed a plaque with a story and photos on it.

You can look through the radio history of Darwin by going to *www.ntl.gov.au*/, selecting "Picture NT" and typing the word "Wireless" in the little box. After that stay on the site but then type in the word "Radio".

A TALE OF THREE SIGNAL GENERATORS—Fred Franklin

After digging around in a dark corner of the room, I turned up three *Advance Electronics* signal generators. One from 1948 and the others from around the sixty's.

The 1948 E2 signal generator generates a radio frequency sine wave only. An audio signal can be connected to a socket and a modulated output signal obtained. Its frequency range is very useful, 100 KHz to 100 MHz over six scales. The radio frequency signal is generated by a variation on the Hartley oscillator. The tank circuit consists of a centre tapped coil with a capacitor connected in parallel to one half of the coil.



The B4A signal generator generates a radio frequency sine wave as well as a modulated 400 Hz audio signal using a Hartley oscillator. There are six ranges of frequencies from100 KHz to 80 MHz. The radio frequency signal can be modulated by the generators internal or externally supplied signal. On the oscilloscope the internally modulated signal is quite pretty picture as it resembles a string of balls containing the carrier wave that is being used.

The H1E (1969) signal generator is an audio signal generator. It has a range of frequencies from 15 Hz to50K Hz in both square and sine waves spread over three ranges. The signal is generated by a Wein bridge oscillator. This oscillator relies on its amplifier going into controlled positive feed back (that terrible whistle that occurs when the microphone is too close to the speaker on public address system). I have done quite a lot of PA work and experimented with the feed back noise and was able to purify it by adjusting the tone and volume controls of the amplifier. Some musicians use this effect for wanted distortion of the notes being played by strumming the note and turning the guitar towards the guitar amplifier's speaker. This signal generator was used to test the Lenard guitar amplifier that I recently did up and wrote about in our magazine.

The Hartley oscillator, basically, is a tuned circuit made of a centre tapped coil with a capacitor connected in parallel with to the coil. The frequency may be varied by using a variable capacitor instead of a fixed value one.

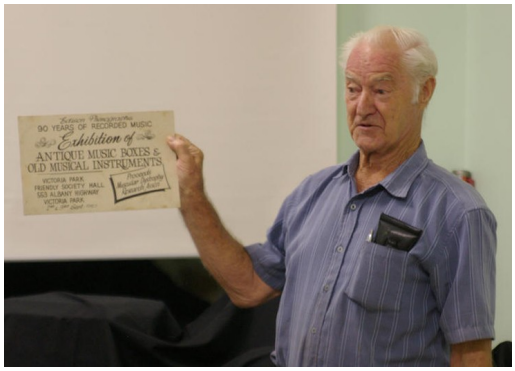
There was a lot of care taken by the manufacturer to prevent external signals entering the instruments and effecting the quality and quantity of the output signal used for testing equipment under repair or calibration. The front and rear parts of the cabinet are made of pressed steel screwed together and earthed. The oscillator section is encased in its own pressed aluminium, earthed box that is screwed together. The selected signal passes through an attenuation switch that selects the output voltage and current. This switch is encased in metal and earthed. The mains power supply (240 volts AC) passes through a power line conditioner. Connected to each of the active and neutral wires is a "pi" filter. There is a polyester capacitor connected to earth, at each end of a coil through which the active or neutral current flows. The coil is in series with the active wire and another on the neutral wire of the mains.

As with all valve equipment that comes my way the first step is to obtain the service manual and read it and compare it to the equipment and see who has done what to it. Then I replace all the electrolytic capacitors as they have generally dried out and or blown up at some time previously. The two later built signal generators had mustard coloured axial dry capacitors. These had cracked or broken bodies and were all replaced with new ones from the valve bank. All resistors that were inaccurate in their size were also replaced. A three position rotary wafer switch had a broken wafer and was replaced by a new switch from Jaycar.

Now for a quick insulation check and earth conductivity test and they were ready to be plugged in and turned on.
I was pleasantly surprised to find all three instruments were accurate and the waves perfectly formed.

The only thing left to do is make a set of test leads for each machine. Genuine oscilloscope leads are punishingly expensive and have some switching functions built in that are not wanted for this purpose. I selected 2 metres of Jaycar WB-1508 single core OFC coax cable, 100mm of thin heat shrink insulation, 2 alligator clips and a BNC plug (PP0651) to make a test signal lead with a plug on one end and two flying 100mm flying leads at the other end. I made many of these leads as there were two or three sockets per signal generator.

Advance Instruments was started in a back yard shed in Walthamstow, England by Mr. A. W. Stapleton during 1932. He built radio parts and small sub assemblies. He continued on to build test equipment and during 1956 moved to larger premises in Hainault in Essex and went public. During 1968 the company expanded and moved to Wrexham. The company continued to make a wide range of test gear and parts until during 1973 it was taken over by Gould and became Gould Advance Ltd.. (WWW.radiomuseum.org)



Merv shows off some memorabilia in the Items of Interest section of the February meeting.

More photos from the September 2011 Meeting

Richard explains the construction procedure for the “toilet roll” crystal set radio

Adrian and Reg hard at work to build the toilet roll radio.

Steve looks proud of his work, but does it work!

Shaun and Vince with nose to the grindstone!

Rob and Tony hard at work. I should know how to do this. It was a snack when I was a kid!

Where did you say the red wire goes?
Steve and Lawrie building their crystal sets.

More photos from the October 2011 Meeting

Brian Lyons demonstrates his miniature portable record player

Early portable gramophone minature

Barry, Rob and Rodney look with interest at Brians demo.

Brians minature gramophone

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE—Auctions!

For any upcoming major Auctions (usually January and June meetings) please give your list of items to be auctioned to Tony Smith. Tony is making a list so that members will know in advance what is coming up for sale.

Tonys address is 25/104 King William St, Bayswater, 6053
Phone is 9271 5668.

Please bring along items for auction to any of our monthly meetings. They will be auctioned at the end of the meeting. We expect only a few items will be offered.

Some more photos from the February meeting—Pathe by Steve Austin

Steve and Shaun show 2 horn Pathe disc phonographs

Pathe Kid Projector

Pathe built in speaker phonograph

Merv and Shaun show a banner from the past

A good member turnout for the Pathe show

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

The Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club invites you to hear the story of the transition of **6WF of Westralian Farmers Ltd.** to the **Australian Broadcasting Commission** (1929 - 1932), in a presentation based on a scrap book kept by **Wally Coxon**.

This presentation is being made in association with an EXHIBITION by the club of vintage radios from the period 1929 – 1932, as part of the **Centenary of Wireless Hill celebrations. There will also be a presentation on the same subject on July 1 at Kadidjiny Hall 2-3pm.**

When: July 24, 2012 VWGC meeting
Times: 8pm
Where: VWGC Club rooms

Doug Whitfields radio collection sale.

Description	Photograph	
AWA The Fisk Radiola		$850.00
AWA Radiola		$320.00
STC Miniature		$280.00
STC Mantle		$385.00

HMV Consort Transistor		$135.00
Phillips Transistor		$225.00
AWA Radiola Transistor		$22.00
Royal Flying Doctor Traeger Transceiver number 2566 Type TS 2		$890.00
TEAC Radiogram with CD		$85.00

Astor Mickey		$550.00
1921 AIRZONE		$700.00
AWA Personal Portable Model 450-P		$180.00
Gimmick Transistor AM/FM		$18.00
HMV Sprite Mark 2		$125.00

AWA Radiola		$190.00
Tektronics Oscilloscope Type 317		$210.00
Marconi Low Frequency Generator TF1372		$115.00
National reel to reel tape recorder		$80.00
Penncrest reel to reel tape recorder. Unfortunately the battery compartment cover is missing.		$35.00

Avometer large		$70.00
Universal Avo Minor		$50.00

Previous club member Doug Whitfield is unable to keep the remnants of his collection and is offering them for sale to us. If you would like more information on any of these items please call Doug on 0438 944 935 or 0410 471 117.

2012 Wireless Hill Centenary Activities

OLD VALVE RADIO INFORMATION DAY

The Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club of W.A. invites the public to bring their old valve radios to Wireless Hill where members of the club will be on hand to assist with identification and dating. They will also give advice on the care and conservation (and restoration) of these radios.
The club members in attendance will have appropriate reference material on hand. The club will also provide a small exhibition of radios and components to illustrate their advice. They do not give valuations.
When: 7 October, 2012 10 am to 12 noon
Where: Wireless Hill Museum Cottage
Contact: Richard Rennie 9330 1636 Rodney House 9364 6912

EXHIBITION OF RADIOS

The Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club of W.A. presents an exhibition of historic radios and associated memorabilia. There will be demonstrations of domestic radios from the 1920s to the 1970s. Club members will be on hand to discuss with the visitors the history of domestic radio in Western Australia.
When: September 30. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
Where: Wireless Hill Museum Cottage
Contact: Richard Rennie 9330 1636 Rodney House 9364 6912

From 6WF to the ABC Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

The Vintage Wireless and Gramophone Club invites you to hear the story of the transition of 6WF of Westralian Farmers Ltd. to the Australian Broadcasting Commission (1929 - 1932), in a presentation based on a scrap book kept by Wally Coxon. This presentation is being made in association with an EXHIBITION by the Club of vintage radios from the period 1929-1932
When: 1 July 2012
Times: 2—3 pm
Where: Kadidjiny Hall

BOOK LAUNCH

The Encyclopaedia of Western Australian Wirelesses and Gramophones.
The Encyclopaedia of Western Australian Wirelesses and Gramophones documents the companies that manufactured wirelesses and gramophones in Western Australia in the period 1900 to 1960. It also provides a detailed catalogue of Western Australian-made wirelesses and gramophones. It also contains information obtained in interviews over many years with people; many of whom are now deceased. The launch will be held in conjunction with an exhibition of rare Western Australian wirelesses and gramophones.
When: 14 October at 10.30 am
Where: Wireless Hill Museum Cottage
Contact and RSVP: Richard Rennie 9330 1636

Melville Museums & Local History Service presents
April School Holidays' Program

Telescopes
From Galileo to the S.K.A.

Celebrate Galileo's astronomical discoveries, come and try some of his original experiments. Find out about telescopes. Find out about radio-astronomy and the S.K.A. Then make a Galilean telescope with real lenses to take home. You can then explore the planets and the Moon as Galileo saw them! And Learn how to use the telescope to view the transit of Venus across the face of the Sun in June.

SESSION TIMES

Dates: Mon 16 Apr - Fri 20 Apr

Times: 10:30 am **or** 1:30 pm (one & half hour sessions)

Suitable for ages: 8 - 16 year

Costs: $8 / person

Bookings essential Phone: 9364 0158
or email mdc@melville.wa.gov.au

Venue: Melville Discovery Centre City at Melville Civic Centre
10 Almondbury Road BOORAGOON 6154

Presenter: Richard Rennie (club member)

INFORMATION WANTED

EMVOX ACETATE RECORDINGS

I am desperately looking for one of the very rare
EMVOX acetate recordings
cut by Emvox Sound Productions
in the late 1940s and 1950s.
I need a photograph of the label for the
Encyclopedia of Western Australian
Wireless and Gramophones.

Information is also needed about
Bale Sound Studios,
Goldtone acetates, and
Goudge Bros & Crew Recordings.

Contact Richard Rennie
9330 1636

WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH ONLY
The small crystal set, as shown below
(approx 6.5 in x 3.5 in by 3 in.)
May be leatherette covered.
Photo wanted for inclusion in the
Encyclopedia of Western Australia Wirelesses and Gramophones.
Please contact Richard Rennie 93301636

INFORMATION WANTED
WALLY COXON RECORDINGS

It was reported in the Sunday Times on May 10, 1936 that Wally Coxon said "I am opening Perth's first commercial recording studio devoted purely to recording for all commercial purposes.". (See Below)

Has anyone seen a **custom record** (aluminium or acetate) with a label that mentions the name **"Coxon"** or **"Recaudio"**.
Contact Richard Rennie 93301636.

Note : Advertisements are placed free-of-charge, but should be of a non-exploitive nature. (Editor)

A CORRECTION

Mr. W. E. Coxon writes:
"Under my photograph appearing in the radio column it states that I am station manager of 6AM. I shall be pleased if you will make a correction, and kindly state that I resigned from 6AM in October last, and am in business on my own account at first floor, A.M.P. Chambers, as a consulting engineer and associated with the technical activities of the Australian Aerial Medical Services (W.A. Section)—the Flying Doctor Scheme. A point that may be of interest to you is the fact that I am opening Perth's first commercial sound studio devoted purely to recording for all commercial purposes."